Hijack attempt on AIR Seychelles

614. SHRI YADLAPATI VENKAT RAO:
SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the recent hijack attempt on board a scheduled Air Seychelles flight from Mumbai to Seychelles *via* Male has been investigated;

(b) if so, what are the results of the findings;

(c) what action has been taken against those responsible for the security lapse; and

(d) the steps taken to make security check at airports more foolproof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) On 9.9.2002, Air Seychelles flight HM 017 left Mumbai Airport at the scheduled time for Male and Seychelles. 30 minutes before approach of Male Airport, a passenger by name Shri Chandra Babu Sashi Raj threatened one of the Airhostesses with a knife and wanted to enter the cockpit forcibly. He was overpowered by the crew of the aircraft and on arrival at Male Airport, he was handed over to the Male Authorities.

The enquiry did not fix responsibility on any individual but it has revealed that it was fault on the part of Airport Security Unit which failed to detect the knife and that the incident could have been averted if secondary/ladder point checking was carried out by the airlines.

To further tighten security BCAS has reiterated instructions regarding secondary ladder point checks to all airlines.

Purchase on new aircrafts by AI for US operation

615. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA:
PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM:
SHRI YADLAPATI VENKAT RAO:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Air India would buy 17 aircrafts for U.S. operations;

(b) if so, the details thereof;